

Index to
THE CATHOLIC DIGEST

November, 1954 through April, 1955

Vol. 19

Nos. 1-6

<i>Subject and Title</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>Subject and Title</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>Page</i>
ADVENTURE			Corporation With a Social		
Conquerors of Mount McKinley	Jan.	103	Conscience	Apr.	104
I Broke the Sound Barrier.....	Feb.	84	Don't Discount Grandpa.....	Mar.	85
My Fight With a Tuna.....	Jan.	54	Right-to-Work Bills.....	Feb.	89
Why We Climbed Everest.....	Nov.	22	Union Member: Lazy Man.....	Nov.	107
<i>Age of Mountaineering, The</i> (Ullman)	Jan.	103	Calendar, Making the Calendar		
<i>All My Darlings</i> (Byrnes).....	Mar.	23	Simpler	Jan.	42
AMERICANA			CATHOLIC ACTION		
Face-Lift for Niagara Falls.....	Mar.	43	Food, Warmth, and Friendship	Apr.	43
Five Old Ships Live On.....	Jan.	57	Junk Business.....	Nov.	61
Lewis and Clark Cross the Wilderness	Dec.	94	Life of Luigi.....	Jan.	93
Little Girl With a Musket.....	Jan.	46	New Kind of Sisters.....	Apr.	94
Man Who First Sang "Dixie".....	Apr.	87	Regaining Germany's Soul.....	Mar.	77
Onuoha and the Good People.....	Mar.	111	Where Mixed-Up Kids Find Love	Mar.	81
Pulaski: American Hero.....	Dec.	119	Christ is Come!	Jan.	1
Thanksgiving	Nov.	5	CHURCH HISTORY		
When Lincoln Died.....	Feb.	24	Anthony Leaves His Desert		
ART			Cave	Jan.	83
Plan for a Church.....	Nov.	70	Two Papal Funerals.....	Feb.	102
Shrine of Present-Day Art.....	Jan.	9	Church of Straw.....	Apr.	58
To Uncommon Valor.....	Feb.	51	COMMUNISM		
<i>Beyond Endurance</i>			Brainwashing by Surgery.....	Dec.	49
(Walters and Marugg)	Nov.	93	China's Reds are Rough on Labor	Feb.	40
BOOKS AND REVIEWS			Communism is a Religion.....	Nov.	27
"Fisher of Men".....	Apr.	125	Communists Captured My Country	Feb.	3
"How to Live 365 Days a Year"	Dec.	113	Five Minutes With Vishinsky.....	Apr.	8
Something New in Book Clubs	Nov.	11	Good-by to Hanoi.....	Jan.	79
"The Stars at Noon".....	Feb.	125	Green Candles of Hope.....	Apr.	55
Thought for New Readers.....	Jan.	126	Red Spies Win Victories.....	Jan.	29
"Untold Story of Douglas MacArthur"	Mar.	123	Slogans Made in Moscow.....	Mar.	107
Who Are the Censors?.....	Nov.	86	They Danced Right Through the Iron Curtain.....	Jan.	116
<i>Born Catholics</i> (White).....	Dec.	16	Time Runs Out in Asia.....	Feb.	105
BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY			Two Who Died in Guatemala.....	Feb.	109
CIO and the Vanishing Reds.....	Dec.	22			

<i>Subject and Title</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>Subject and Title</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>Page</i>
Undermining of China.....	Apr.	84	Gentle Art of Punishment.....	Jan.	88
Vietnam Exiles.....	Nov.	99	Ham Radio Is for You.....	Apr.	113
Warsaw Rising.....	Nov.	43	My Nine Darlings.....	Mar.	23
What the Reds Plan for You.....	Mar.	51	Teaching Little Children to		
<i>Communism and Christ</i>			Pray	Apr.	109
(Lowry)	Nov.	27	We Wouldn't Marry Each		
<i>CONVERSION</i>			Other Again	Feb.	8
After Five Marriages.....	Mar.	68	<i>FLIGHTS OF FANCY.</i> Nov., 69; Dec.,		
Jo Mielziner: Artist of Broad-			10; Jan., 115; Feb., 28; Mar.,		
way	Apr.	50	106; Apr., 42		
<i>DEFENSE</i>			<i>Food</i>		
Arctic: Crossroads of the			Bread Can Be Good.....	Dec.	65
World	Dec.	74	Food Comes From Light.....	Dec.	30
My Son in the Service.....	Dec.	47	Forty Ships of Mercy.....	Mar.	39
Spain Gets Ready.....	Mar.	102	<i>GOVERNMENT</i>		
True Horrors of Nuclear War.....	Jan.	5	Land for Sale—Cheap.....	Nov.	90
<i>DEVOTION</i>			<i>GUATEMALA</i>		
Chain Around My Neck.....	Feb.	12	Communists Captured My		
Hand of Mary.....	Dec.	16	Country	Feb.	3
I Missed the Blessed Virgin.....	Nov.	32	Two Who Died in Guatemala.....	Feb.	109
Lourdes in Our Own Day.....	Mar.	98	<i>HEALTH AND MEDICINE</i>		
Medal for Freddie.....	Nov.	1	Cut Down on Your Aches and		
My First Easter Vigil.....	Apr.	18	Pains	Mar.	20
Resurrection	Apr.	3	Dieting, Facts and Fiction.....	Jan.	25
Skeptic at Lourdes.....	Nov.	46	Grow Up and Feel Better.....	Apr.	72
Small Child in Church.....	Nov.	41	How Long Will You Live?	Feb.	67
Teaching Little Children to			Laugh and Stay Healthy.....	Feb.	120
Pray	Apr.	109	What Polio Taught Me.....	Nov.	93
That Old-Time Sunday.....	Jan.	91	<i>HEARTS ARE TRUMPS.</i> Nov., 78; Dec.,		
Diary of a Crime.....	Dec.	69	38; Jan., 24; Feb., 53; Mar., 19;		
The Dream Ship.....	Apr.	99	Apr., 17		
<i>ECONOMICS</i>			<i>How Man Made Music</i>		
Case for Family Allowances....	Feb.	80	(Buchanan)	Apr.	87
Dollars and Souls.....	Feb.	54	<i>HOW YOUR CHURCH CAN RAISE</i>		
How the New Tax Law Helps			MONEY.	Nov.,	35; Dec., 79;
You	Dec.	52	Jan., 124; Feb., 33; Mar., 46;		
Your Doctor Bills.....	Dec.	71	Apr., 98		
<i>EDUCATION</i>			<i>IN OUR PARISH.</i> Nov., 73; Dec., 28;		
Books, Kids, and TV.....	Mar.	11	Jan., 28; Feb., 69; Mar., 84;		
Esperanto Is Easy.....	Apr.	118	Apr., 31		
European Study Tour.....	Mar.	121	In This Sign—Victory!	Mar.	60
If Your Boy Is Bright.....	Dec.	85	King of Comedy (Sennett)	Apr.	14
Intelligence Tests and Your			Language, The Mystery of.....	Nov.	65
Child	Feb.	91	<i>LAW</i>		
Louvain's American College....	Apr.	76	Getting Away With Murder....	Nov.	36
Nuns With TV Know-How.....	Dec.	80	<i>LIVING, ART OF</i>		
TV With Teachers.....	Apr.	24	AA's Eleventh Step.....	Feb.	29
Undermining of China.....	Apr.	84	Colors Make You Mad or		
<i>ENTERTAINMENT</i>			Glad	Jan.	72
How to Throw a Pie.....	Apr.	14	Don't Let Your Car Freeze.....	Nov.	15
Roles of Maureen O'Sullivan.....	Apr.	79	Girl in the Light of Darkness.....	Feb.	70
<i>FAMILY LIFE</i>					
Bing and the Crosby Boys.....	Jan.	14			

<i>Subject and Title</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>Page</i>
Grow Up and Feel Better.....	Apr.	72
Ham Radio Is for You.....	Apr.	113
Happy Handicapped.....	Feb.	93
How to Get Along With Your		
Boss	Jan.	120
Teach Your Child to Laugh.....	Mar.	47
You Are the Comic-Book		
Czar	Feb.	16
Your Emotions Drive Your		
Car	Mar.	54
Your New Car: Safest Ever....	Feb.	43
Matt Shea and the Blarney		
Stone	Mar.	94
<i>Meaning of Maryknoll, The</i>		
(Nevins)	Nov.	113
MISSIONS		
Last Days of Bishop Ford.....	Nov.	113
Native Martyr of Papua.....	Dec.	100
More Blessed Than Kings		
(McCorry)	Jan.	110
MUSIC		
Celtic Folk Tenor.....	Apr.	66
Heard Any Good Choirs		
Lately?	Mar.	89
Jew Who Sings of the		
Church	Mar.	2
Man Who First Sang "Dixie" ..	Apr.	87
Silent Night	Dec.	33
My Christmas Tree Angel.....	Dec.	3
NATURE		
Little Bird of Our Lady.....	Feb.	47
OPEN DOOR. Nov., 79; Dec., 123;		
Jan., 96; Feb., 83; Mar., 97;		
Apr., 127		
PHILANTHROPY		
Rules for Raising Money.....	Nov.	110
PICTURE STORIES		
Baby Is an Admiral.....	Jan.	97
Blind Veteran Runs a Dairy		
Farm	Nov.	80
Chapel on Wheels Serves		
Iron-Curtain Refugees.....	Apr.	60
Child Labor Generates		
Delinquency	Mar.	62
China's Boat People.....	Jan.	62
Don't Gamble.....	Apr.	90
Flight From Terror.....	Nov.	50
Happy Birthday, Dear Infant.....	Dec.	56
Mass in the Arctic.....	Dec.	88
Our Lady of the Runways....	Feb.	60

<i>Subject and Title</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>Page</i>
Street Preacher Invades the South	Feb.	34
Which Is It—Old World or New?	Mar.	32
POLITICS		
Break Relations With Russia Now!	Mar.	6
Christian in Politics	Dec.	78
Time Runs Out in Asia	Feb.	105
Troops on Formosa	Nov.	18
What Is Wrong in France and Italy?	Dec.	109
What Is Your Legacy?	Dec.	11
PROFILE		
After Five Marriages (Lillian Roth)	Mar.	68
Bing and the Crosby Boys	Jan.	14
Celtic Folk Tenor	Apr.	66
Chain Around My Neck (Durante)	Feb.	12
Germany's Father Guardini	Dec.	42
Grandpa's Drugstore	Feb.	97
Jim Farley Today	Mar.	27
Johnny Appleseed of the Bronx	Jan.	22
Jo Mielziner: Artist of Broadway	Apr.	50
Judge Murphy of the Comic Books	Apr.	32
Lausche of Ohio	Nov.	74
Magsaysay Leads the Way	Nov.	119
Man Who First Sang "Dixie" (Dan Emmett)	Apr.	87
Muskie of Maine	Dec.	82
My Uncle, Mr. Gannon	Jan.	75
Philadelphia Kellys	Mar.	13
Pulaski: American Hero	Dec.	119
Roles of Maureen O'Sullivan	Apr.	79
PSYCHOLOGY		
Fear and Your Child	Dec.	39
Gentle Art of Punishment	Jan.	88
Grow Up and Feel Better	Apr.	72
How Long Will You Live?	Feb.	67
Who Are You?	Dec.	105
RACE RELATIONS		
Good Neighbors in Texas	Dec.	124
Sailors Send Frederick to School	Dec.	25
Today's American Negro	Jan.	32
Your Trip to Latin America	Feb.	77
Rehearsal for Death	Apr.	28



The series of pictures of Our Lady by the Mexican artist Alejandro Range Hidalgo, which have appeared as covers of The Catholic Digest, will be resumed shortly. Meanwhile, those which have already appeared are available in four colors in full size, 15½" by 21", suitable for framing. The picture above is Our Lady of Sorrows.

Judging by the response so far, our judgment in discovery has been completely vindicated. The number of orders, running in thousands, demonstrates an eagerness everywhere to welcome things of beauty which, though as modern as today, are as old and as inspirational as anything in the high days of Christian art.

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Subject and Title	Month	Page
RELIGIOUS ART		
Devotions by the Gross.....	Feb.	20
Shrine of Present-Day Art.....	Jan.	9
RELIGIOUS LIFE		
From Press Box to Cloister....	Jan.	49
New Kind of Sisters.....	Apr.	94
St. Peter Had a Mother-in-Law	Jan.	110
Saint Anthony of the Desert (Queffelec)	Jan.	83
Savage Papua (Dupeyrat)	Dec.	100
SCIENCE		
Atomic Drugstore.....	Apr.	37
Brainwashing by Surgery.....	Dec.	49
Food Comes From Light.....	Dec.	30
Get Your Geiger Counter!.....	Nov.	56
Lightning Is Friendly.....	Jan.	39
Smog Detective Reports.....	Mar.	117
Stereatrons in Your Future.....	Nov.	102
Silent Night (Pauli)	Dec.	33
SOCIOLOGY		
Corporation With a Social Conscience	Apr.	104
Eight-Hour Orphans.....	Apr.	46
Food for Babies Is Japan's Problem	Dec.	13
SPORT		
Football Upsets Have One Reason	Dec.	62
Rehearsal for Death.....	Apr.	28
Stars at Noon, The (Cochran)	Feb.	84
TELEVISION		
Books, Kids, and TV.....	Mar.	11
Nuns With TV Know-How.....	Dec.	80
TV With Teachers.....	Apr.	24
TRAVEL		
European Study Tour.....	Mar.	121
Louvain's American College.....	Apr.	76
Your Trip to Latin America.....	Feb.	77
VATICAN		
Vatican Radio	Nov.	123
We and Our Children (Newland)	Apr.	109
When I Was Four.....	Dec.	121
White and the Gold, The (Costain)	Jan.	46
Why I Became a Brother (Drees)	Jan.	49
Women Listen to Bishop Sheen.....	Dec.	115
Your Washington (Coffin)	Feb.	24

Index to
THE CATHOLIC DIGEST

May, 1955, through October, 1955

Vol. 19

Nos. 7-12

<i>Subject and Title</i>	<i>Month No.</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>Subject and Title</i>	<i>Month No.</i>	<i>Page</i>
ADVENTURE			BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY		
Avalanche Busters.....	July	87	Crusade in Asia.....	June	127
Lost in the Sky.....	July	8	Cypresses Believe in God.....	Aug.	126
South Pole Crash.....	Aug.	111	Four Rivers of Paradise.....	Oct.	122
Tale of the "Santa Geneveva"	June	21	In and Out the Andes.....	May	126
We Jump at Night.....	Sept.	23	Pierre Toussaint—A Story of Old New York.....	July	108
When I Bailed Out of My Jet	June	71	CATHOLIC ACTION		
<i>Adventures in Politics</i> (Neuberger)	May	9	Catechism in the Tomato Patch	Aug.	39
Air School for Things to Come.....	Oct.	41	Central Verein Is a Hundred Years Old.....	Oct.	31
<i>Ambassador in Chains</i> (Lane)....	Oct.	18	I Worked in a Shrine Gift Shop	May	46
AMERICANA			Miss Merrick and Her Christ Children.....	May	1
A-Bomb Test Town.....	July	28	<i>Christopher Columbus, Mariner</i> (Morison)	Oct.	4
Columbus Finds the New World	Oct.	4	<i>Close Contact</i> (Dewhurst).....	June	109
Disney's Wonderland.....	Sept.	123	COMMUNISM		
Guarding the President.....	July	67	Communist in the Class- room	Sept.	4
Helicopter: Chore Boy of the Air	Oct.	81	Death March of the Missioner	Oct.	18
Liberty Bell Still Peals.....	July	60	Dilemma in San Marino.....	July	112
Life on the Airlines.....	Sept.	82	Fordham's Little Russia.....	Oct.	85
Lydia Longley: First U.S. Nun	Aug.	53	Inside Red China.....	June	87
Soo: Artery of Industrial Might	June	63	In the Catacombs of Russia....	May	93
St. Lawrence Seaway.....	Oct.	55	Karl Marx Was a Bad Man....	July	95
West Point Today.....	June	17			
What Happened to the "Mayflower"	May	116			
ART					
Dali Paints Christ.....	Aug.	119			
Mexican Love Story.....	July	117			
<i>Assassins</i> (Donovan).....	July	67			
BIRDS					
Parakeets Are Pals.....	July	73			
BOOK REVIEWS					
Crown and the Shadow.....	Sept.	125			

INDEX

125

<i>Subject and Title</i>	<i>Month No.</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>Subject and Title</i>	<i>Month No.</i>	<i>Page</i>
U. S. Army Turncoats Were Not Brainwashed	Oct. 33		HEALTH AND MEDICINE		
Madame Khruschev Visits Home	June 94		Blame Your Allergy!	Sept. 110	
Red Army Deserters	June 109		Life Without Germs at Notre Dame	June 45	
Russians at Play	May 34		Nervous Breakdown	July 45	
Russia's Secret Weapon	Sept. 68		Our Baby's Fight for Life	Sept. 38	
Shouting Through the Iron Curtain	May 17		What Has Sister Suzanne Found?	May 119	
Tales of Soviet China	Aug. 46		You and the Wonder Drugs	June 81	
U. S. Soldiers Who Chose Communism	Sept. 74		HEARTS ARE TRUMPS	May, 125; June, 53; July, 113; Aug., 25;	
Vietnam Exiles Find Homes	May 25		Sept., 50; Oct. 80		
Why Russians Are Poor Farmers	Oct. 104		Helicopters, How They Work (Lewellen)	Oct. 81	
Death of Hitler's Germany, The (Blond)	May 101		Hiroshima Today	Aug. 59	
DEVOTION			Hitler, The Last Days of	May 101	
Mass 'Facing the People'	Sept. 103		How to Be a Successful Teenager (Menninger)	May 82	
Mass to Remember	Aug. 108		HOW YOUR CHURCH CAN RAISE MONEY	May, 24; June, 90; July, 54; Aug. 79	
Our Lady of the Americas	June 3				
Disney's Wonderland	Sept. 123				
ECONOMICS					
Are the Workers Prospering?	Aug. 73				
My Car Is Big Enough	May 31				
Those TV-Service Swindles	June 48				
Trade Your House	July 92				
EDUCATION					
Are First-Graders Ready to Read?	Sept. 90				
Boss Goes Back to School	July 76				
Fordham's Little Russia	Oct. 1				
Now Kids Love Arithmetic	Aug. 17				
FAMILY LIFE					
I Spank	Sept. 72				
Johnny's Day	Sept. 26				
Lucy Rehearses Her Funeral	June 36				
'Read Me a Story'	Aug. 84				
Treat Your Children All Alike	June 33				
Two of My Children Don't Speak English	July 63				
What Do You Owe Your Parents?	June 67				
When Words Cause Spats	Oct. 12				
FLIGHTS OF FANCY	May, 81; June, 108; July, 80; Aug., 45; Sept., 28; Oct., 118				
Food					
Chlorella: Food of the Future	Oct. 96				
Garnishee Racket	Oct. 27				
Guatemala's Year of Freedom	Oct. 51				

<i>Subject and Title</i>	<i>Month No.</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>Subject and Title</i>	<i>Month No.</i>	<i>Page</i>
MISSIONS					
God's Foreign Legion.....	Oct.	46	Ben Duffy of Madison Ave....	May	39
Hospital on the Pusan Hills.....	Sept.	106	Cardinal in Conclave		
Our Gringo Pastor.....	June	54	(Cardinal O'Connell).....	Oct.	76
Poisoned-Arrow Parish.....	June	40	Carlton Eldridge Makes		
MUSIC			Music.....	July	81
Carlton Eldridge Makes			Eddie Foy's Greatest Act.....	Oct.	119
Music	July	81	Ed Sullivan Says He's Lazy....	Oct.	38
Marvelous Music Machine.....	Sept.	79	Father Reinhold Fights On....	Sept.	13
Music for Junior.....	June	78	Germany's "Mr. Family".....	July	40
To Save American Music.....	Sept.	34	Henry Ford, The New.....	May	86
<i>My Beloved: The Story of a Carmelite Nun</i> (Thomas)	July	99	How It Feels to Be a Champion (Marciano)	Sept.	29
NATURE			John Ford of Hollywood.....	June	28
Fantastic Fish of the Sea.....	Sept.	45	Jules Verne: Space Traveler.....	Aug.	122
Million-Dollar Bouquet.....	June	116	Kerrigan of Merck & Co.....	June	124
New Name for Good Catholics.....	Aug.	14	Many Lives of Don Ameche.....	Oct.	70
OPEN DOOR May, 118; June, 16; July, 111; Aug., 21; Sept., 37; Oct. 127			Mexican Love Story (A. R. Hidalgo)	July	117
Peron's War on the Church.....	Sept.	118	North Woods Doctor.....	Oct.	91
PICTURE STORIES			Priest of the Boston Water Front (Fr. Powers)	Oct.	113
Chiang Kai-shek's Family.....	June	99	Thomas More Is My Favorite Saint	June	75
Flight to Freedom.....	Sept.	94	Tony Zale Is Still Punching.....	May	20
Holy Father and His Household	Aug.	88	PSYCHOLOGY		
Is This the Face of Christ?.....	Sept.	56	Don't Let the Child Experts Scare You	Aug.	103
I Was Baptized in English.....	May	64	I Spank	Sept.	72
Missionary on Wheels.....	Oct.	108	You Change With the Weather	June	91
Pope Pius XII (color)	Oct.	64	Your Driving Unmasks You.....	Sept.	10
10 Years After.....	Aug.	62	Your Tattletale Hobby.....	May	13
Times Square Intern.....	July	122	<i>Reflections on the Failure of Socialism</i> (Eastman)	July, 95; Aug.	26
U. S. Congressman.....	Aug.	30	RELIGIOUS LIFE		
POLITICS			I Enter Carmel.....	July	99
Anti-Anti-Communists	Aug.	26	Life for a Soul.....	Aug.	80
Arctic: Cold-War Hot Spot.....	May	96	Lydia Longley: First U.S. Nun	Aug.	53
Dilemma in San Marino.....	July	112	<i>Rocket Pioneers</i> (Williams and Epstein)	Aug.	122
Escapees: America's Shame.....	July	55	Rosicrucians? What are the.....	July	49
For Better Politics.....	May	9	SCIENCE		
How to Fight the Cold War.....	July	1	Air-Conditioned Village.....	Aug.	94
Implications of Federal Housing	June	60	Chlorella: Food of the Future	Oct.	96
POPE PIUS XII			It's God's Atom.....	June	120
Holy Father and His Household	Aug.	88	Life Without Germs at Notre Dame	June	45
Pius XII: Born for Our Time	May	61	Lightning Is Under Your Feet	Oct.	65
Pope as I Saw Him.....	Oct.	62	Marvelous Music Machine.....	Sept.	79
Pope Pius XII (picture story—color)	Oct.	64	Turn on Your Sun Stove.....	Aug.	12
Prayer Room for Congress.....	Sept.	51			
PROFILE					
Abbe Pierre Visits America.....	Aug.	3			

<i>Subject and Title</i>	<i>Month No.</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>Subject and Title</i>	<i>Month No.</i>	<i>Page</i>
What Goes Up Must Come Down	May	78	Tony Zale Is Still Punching	May	20
Silent Continent (Kearns and Britton)	Aug.	111	Spotlight on Social Reform (Smith)	Aug.	14
SOCIOLOGY			This They Believe?	June	105
Big Sisters for Troubled Girls	July	32	TRAVEL		
City of Charity	July	19	Catholics in Turbans	Oct.	99
Song of the Sky (Murchie)	July	8	14,000 Miles of Fishing	July	114
Soviet Spy Net (Cookridge)	Sept.	68	Our Gringo Pastor	June	54
SPORT			Our Lady of the Americas	June	3
Baseball Boom in Japan	Sept.	48	Vacation South of the Border	July	35
Black Sox	Aug.	77	TV: Fee or Free?	Sept.	112
14,000 Miles of Fishing	July	114	21 Stayed (Pasley)	Sept.	74
How It Feels to Be a Champion	Sept.	29	Underwater Sport (Vanderkogel and Lardner)	Sept.	45
Peep in the Deep (Skin Diving)	Aug.	56	Uranium! You Might Find	Aug.	98
This Year's Big-League Managers	May	108	Vorkuta (Scholmer)	May	93
			Why Johnny Can't Read (Flesch)	Sept.	90

• • the Open Door • •

MY non-CATHOLIC husband was a war prisoner of the Germans in Italy during the 2nd World War. He and another soldier escaped, and hid in the hills around Rome.

An Italian priest took them to safety in his home at Castelgandolfo, summer residence of the Pope. There my grateful husband was so fired with enthusiasm over the Church that helped him and so many others that he wanted that faith for himself.

He asked for instructions, and two days before the American troops entered Rome, he was baptized and received First Communion. Proudly he bears the name given him in Baptism, Eugene, after the present Pope, Pius XII.

Mrs. John Payne.

[For statements of true incidents by which persons were brought into the Church \$25 will be paid on publication. Manuscripts submitted for this department cannot be returned.—Ed.]

THE WAR took me to Rome in 1944. I was indifferent to religion but keen on sightseeing. I found myself in a Vatican audience chamber, where an audience with the Pope was imminent.

I was hemmed in. But I had no wish to leave: the Pope would be an additional "sight." I was impressed by that gentle-looking figure, his air of benevolence. Was this the villain of the anti-Catholic stories I had been brought up on?

Other influences worked on me, slowly. Later, on being received into the Church, I recollect that my first step to Rome had been taken in Rome, where my antipathy to the Vicar of Christ had melted upon seeing him face to face.

F. Ellis.